Tackling terrorist outfits in Himachal Pradesh

2781. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts/taken any steps to tackle the terrorists outfits creating problems in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The measures taken by the Government include keeping strict vigil over the areas in Chamba district bordering upon Doda and Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir, gearing up the intelligence machinery, deployment of additional forces at strategic points, coordinated action by the Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir Police etc. In addition, Government has been regularly sensitizing all State Governments and concerned agencies regarding militant activities. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for modernizing the State Police Forces and deployment of Central para-military forces on need basis.

Declaration of new State by naxalites

†2782. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the declaration made by naxalites to the effect that a new State namely 'Dandakaranya' would be brought into existence under which the areas namely Bastar of Chhattisgarh, Vidharbha of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Maharashtra, some parts of West Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are covered and that map of the alleged State has also been distributed among the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb this stunning declaration and activities of naxalites; and

(c) whether there is any provision of Central assistance for Chhattisgarh State and by when the same would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to curb left wing extremist activities in the States. However, keeping in view the overall dimensions of left wing extremist activities in some States, a high level Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the seriously affected States, as its members, regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the States to check left extremist activities, monitors the plan of action in respect of each State and makes recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem.

Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs, and providing assistance of para-military forces on need basis etc. have been taken by the Centre and effectively followed-up.

Under the Scheme of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure, an amount of Rs. 69.80 crores has been reimbursed to the concerned State Governments for the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.99. Financial assistance has also been provided under Modernisation of State Police Forces Scheme to upgrade the weaponry, equipment, training etc. of the State Police Forces.

(c) Under the Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces, an

amount of Rs.3.8 crores has been released to the Government of Chhattisgarh.

Assessment on law and order situation in the country

2783. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the deteriorating law and order situation in the different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by Government to control the law and order situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. However having regard to various dimensions of terrorism, insurgency and left wing extremism, the situation is constantly reviewed with a view to taking remedial measures. While a multi-pronged approach is being followed to tackle the problems in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, the institution of a high level Coordination Centre is constantly monitoring ways and means to overcome the menace of left wing extremism.

Intelligence inputs are shared with the State Governments and funds are provided for the modernization of State Police Forces. Central Para-Military Forces are also deployed on need basis.

Establishment of Helicopter services on subsidised system on Guwahati-Haflong sector

2784. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for establishment of Helicopter services on subsidised system on Guwahati-Haflong route in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of necessary steps taken thereon; and